

WASHINGTON “ Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the House

œThe Medicare giveback bill is one step towards correcting the problems that stem from the B

Under the BBA of 1997, Congress sought to extend the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund, v

œUnfortunately, the implementation of the BBA has been over-zealous in its treatment of very

Olver expressed relief that finally something is being done to address this health care crisis, bu

œThe BBA Medicare giveback legislation is by no means an end solution. It is merely the first

The primary benefits of the BBA givebacks would go to community hospitals, nursing homes, h

Â Community Hospitals

Olver advocated for a provision that was included in the bill to limit hospital losses during a tran

œThis change is crucial for small rural hospitals and would provide much needed relief to our c

Olver did express concern that the elimination of a scheduled 5.7% decrease in payments for h

œChairman Thomas of the Health Ways and Mean Subcommittee has assured me that the cru

Â Prescription Drugs

Olver is also advocating the highest funding level for Medicare+Choice programs so that more

œUntil Congress enacts comprehensive Medicare reform that includes a prescription drug ben

Olver worked with 84 Democratic colleagues to bring an amendment to the House floor to lowe

œDemocrats would have liked to have offered some key amendments that would further addre

Â Nursing Homes

Olver gathered the signatures of his Massachusetts colleagues to send a letter to top House ar

œOur nursing homes are doing their best to provide essential services to seniors. But they ha

Â Home Health Agencies

Olver has also recognized the importance of restoring over-zealous cuts to home health agenc
He was pleased that the bill delays the 15% payment reduction to home health agenc

œWe must not forget the importance of the home health benefit,” Olver said. œIf we want to n

OLVER ANNOUNCES HOUSE PASSAGE OF BILL TO PROVIDE BBA MEDICARE GIVEBACK PAYMENTS

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